

## **REMARKS**

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102**

The Examiner has maintained his rejection of the outstanding claims in this application as being anticipated by Ojha. Applicants have therefore amended the independent claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 27 and 28 to recite that the negotiation characteristics and requirements of each negotiation profile includes “a mapping for converting qualitative attributes for a part of a bid into numerical values and a weighting factor for each part of a bid”.

The independent claims have also been amended to recite that the negotiation engine “is further adapted to compute a single value for a bid by adjusting the numerical value using the weighting factor and summing the adjusted values, the single numerical value being used to determine whether to accept the bid or not”.

As discussed in response to previous Office Actions, Ojha discloses the use of business rules such as those set up using the interfaces illustrated in Figures 13a to 13k. The business rules “define a set of criteria and a set of actions to be taken when the set of criteria is satisfied”. Therefore, the business rules are used to determine whether a bid is accepted or not.

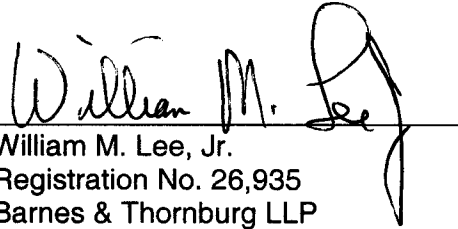
In contrast, the present independent claims recite that a single numerical value is used to determine whether to accept a bid or not. The single numerical value is calculated by “multiplying the numerical value by the appropriate weighting factor and summing the resulting values”. This feature is not disclosed by Ojha.

Hence, Applicants submit that Ojha does not anticipate nor render obvious Claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 27 and 28. Applicants further submit that Ojha does not anticipate nor render obvious Claims 8, 9, 13 and 15 to 26 at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections are now moot and allowance of the application is now requested.

June 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" at the end.

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